

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

c7 Ag
cop 6

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

June 1938

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

Issued Monthly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture

Subscription price, 25 cents per year; single copy, 5 cents; foreign price, 45 cents; payable in cash or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

VOLUME 22 - NUMBER 6 - WASHINGTON, D. C.



In This Issue

| | Page |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Commodity Reviews..... | 2-8 |
| Wheat Crop Insurance Program..... | R. T. Baggett and Wm. R. Rowe 9 |
| Changes in Farm Population..... | Conrad Taeuber 11 |
| Consumption, Textile Raw Materials..... | M. R. Cooper and P. Richards 12 |
| Farm Real Estate Values..... | M. M. Regan 14 |
| Agriculture's Share in Export Trade..... | L. H. Bean 15 |
| National Standards for Farm Products..... | C. W. Kitchen 17 |
| Beans—A \$50,000,000 Industry..... | J. E. Barr 19 |
| Storage Locker Service Expands..... | K. F. Warner 20 |
| Progress Under Perishables Act..... | F. G. Robb 21 |
| Shifts in Corn Acreage..... | G. W. Collier 22 |

BALANCE OF POWER in the agricultural situation seems to have temporarily shifted from declining demand to changes in prospective supplies of crops and livestock. * * * Wheat was lowest priced in 5 years in late May, reflecting prospects of burdensome supply . . . Supplies of feed grains and hay are unusually large . . . Marketing of hogs, grain-fed cattle and lambs are expected to increase . . . Milk production made a record high this spring. * * * Prices of farm commodities as a group in May were indexed at 92, a drop of 28 percent during the past year . . . Ratio of prices received to prices paid is lowest since July 1934. * * * Plans are going forward for the corn program under the new Agricultural Adjustment Act . . . Machinery has been set up for Government crop insurance on wheat to be harvested in 1939.

Commodity Reviews

DEMAND: Forces in Balance

DURING the past year, changes in demand have been responsible for the major portion of the marked changes in prices of farm products. During the next few months, at least, the situation may be somewhat different, with changes in prospective supplies a more important influence than alterations in demand.

The forces influencing industrial activity and consumer purchasing power in the United States seem to be more nearly at dead center than usual. For several months, industrial production has fluctuated very little. This, together with other signs, indicates that the sharp downward spiral of business recession has been at least temporarily broken, and will not continue in marked degree unless important new unfavorable elements should develop.

On the other hand, there is an absence of strong forces pushing business upward. While developments in the building industry are mildly encouraging, not even a small boom is in prospect for this season. Automobile manufacturing, the construction of railroad and utility equipment, or other lines which sometimes are sufficiently important to swing the general tide of business, show no signs of any large pick-up in the near future.

The Government spending and lending program may require some time to become fully effective in adding to consumer purchasing power. There is no evidence of the forward buying of materials or finished goods which is generally associated with sharp or sustained upward movements of industrial activity.

Since the seasonal element is no longer favorable to an upturn, and some additional adjustments in employment and pay rolls to the lower level of business activity may occur, the demand for farm products is likely to continue weak during the summer,

and there may not be much improvement in the fall.

PRODUCTION: Contrast

Agricultural conditions are in striking contrast to conditions a year ago.

Last year, field crops had a poor start, supplies of hay and grain were low, farmers were behind with spring work. But prices were high, the season developed favorably, production of crops was the largest on record.

This year, chief expansion seems likely to be in livestock and poultry. At the beginning of the year numbers of beef cattle, hogs, and chickens were low and prices high compared with other farm products.

This year, prices of most crops are low, supplies of feed grains and hay are unusually large, no material increase in total acreage in crops is expected despite a record acreage of winter wheat remaining for harvest.

FARM WORK: Early Start

Farm work got off to an early start this spring due to unusually warm weather in most parts of the country during March and April. However, heavy rains caused some delays in April through the central Cotton Belt and in May over much of the area from Missouri and Kansas northward.

Farm employment increased more than usual during April, but farmers were using more family and slightly less hired labor as compared with a year ago—a situation reflecting the decline in farm income and scarcity of off-the-farm jobs.

Crop prospects as of May 1 were somewhat spotted the country over, but were seasonally the best in several years. Grass and winter grains everywhere had an early start. The May 1 condition of pastures was the best for that date since 1929; of western ranges the best since 1931.

There are some severely dry spots in

Florida and the Southwest, and some large portions of the Great Plains area where subsoil moisture reserves are still low, but the area of the United States now in urgent need of rain appears unusually small — probably smaller than at this season in the last 5 years.

PRICES: New Lows

Prices of all major groups of farm commodities except fruit, chickens and

Index Numbers of Prices Received and Paid by Farmers

[1910-14=100]

| Year and month | Prices received | Prices paid | Buying power of farm products ¹ |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|--|
| 1937 | | | |
| May..... | 123 | 134 | 96 |
| June..... | 124 | 134 | 93 |
| July..... | 125 | 133 | 94 |
| August..... | 123 | 132 | 93 |
| September..... | 118 | 130 | 91 |
| October..... | 112 | 128 | 88 |
| November..... | 107 | 127 | 84 |
| December..... | 104 | 126 | 83 |
| 1938 | | | |
| January..... | 102 | 126 | 81 |
| February..... | 97 | 126 | 77 |
| March..... | 96 | 125 | 77 |
| April..... | 94 | 125 | 75 |
| May..... | 92 | 125 | 74 |

¹ Ratio of prices received to prices paid.

Prices of Farm Products

Estimates of average prices received by producers at local farm markets based on reports to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Average of reports covering the United States weighted according to relative importance of district and States.

| Product | 5-year average, August, 1909-July 1914 | May average, 1910-14 | May 1937 | April 1938 | May 1938 | Parity price, May 1938 |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|
| Cotton, lb..... | 12.4 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 16.1 |
| Corn, bu..... | 64.2 | 66.2 | 121.2 | 52.7 | 52.7 | 83.5 |
| Wheat, bu..... | 88.4 | 90.3 | 118.3 | 75.0 | 71.4 | 114.9 |
| Hay, ton..... | 11.87 | 12.28 | 12.11 | 8.17 | 7.91 | 15.43 |
| Potatoes, bu..... | 69.7 | 69.5 | ³ 107.0 | 56.0 | 55.6 | 88.8 |
| Oats, bu..... | 39.9 | 41.5 | 53.5 | 28.3 | 27.5 | 51.9 |
| Soybeans, bu..... | (¹) | (¹) | 174.4 | 84.9 | 86.7 | ----- |
| Peanuts, lb..... | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 6.2 |
| Beef cattle, cwt..... | 5.21 | 5.50 | 7.13 | 6.30 | 6.25 | 6.77 |
| Hogs, cwt..... | 7.22 | 7.23 | 9.39 | 7.77 | 7.35 | 9.39 |
| Chickens, lb..... | 11.4 | 11.8 | 14.8 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 14.8 |
| Eggs, doz..... | 21.5 | 16.6 | 17.9 | 15.9 | 17.6 | ² 20.6 |
| Butterfat, lb..... | 26.3 | 24.0 | 31.6 | 2.70 | 25.0 | ² 32.9 |
| Wool, lb..... | 18.3 | 17.8 | 32.7 | 18.3 | 18.7 | 23.8 |
| Veal calves, cwt..... | 6.75 | 6.59 | 7.96 | 8.00 | 7.62 | 8.78 |
| Lambs, cwt..... | 5.87 | 6.46 | 9.16 | 7.23 | 6.90 | 7.63 |
| Horses, each..... | 136.60 | 139.20 | 98.10 | 88.00 | 87.50 | 177.60 |

¹ Prices not available.

² Adjusted for seasonality.

³ Revised.

eggs, cotton and cottonseed moved lower during the past month. Wheat, hogs, dairy products, and truck crops were sharply lower.

At 92—off 4 points since April 15—the index of all prices combined was the lowest since July 1934. The ratio of prices received to prices paid, indexed at 74 in mid-May also was the lowest since July 1934.

Prices of farm products as a group have declined 28 percent during the past year; prices of things bought by farmers have dropped 7 percent.

FARM INCOME: Reduced

Farmers' income from sales of products in April was less than in March, but the decline was less than usual for this period. April usually marks the low point of the year; income will increase in coming months.

This April there were more than seasonal increases in receipts from sales of corn and truck crops; smaller than seasonal reductions in receipts from other grains and tobacco. Increased receipts from wool and poultry and eggs more than offset larger than usual declines from meat animals and dairy products.

Compared with April a year ago, income from farm marketings was 94

million dollars less. Income from crops was down 55 millions; from livestock and livestock products, down 39 millions. Income from sales in coming months is expected to continue less than a year ago, but Government payments will be much larger.

Income from marketings during the first 4 months of this year totaled \$2,059,000,000, representing an 11-percent drop from the \$2,318,000,000 received in the same months last year. Government payments this year have totaled \$168,000,000 compared with \$270,000,000 in January-April 1937.

Receipts from crops in the first 4 months of this year were 19 percent below the corresponding months of 1937; from livestock and livestock products, only 6 percent less than a year ago. Increases in receipts from sales of dairy products partially offset smaller receipts from meat animals, poultry and poultry products.

| | Income from mar- ketings | From Gov- ernment payments | Total |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| April: | | | |
| 1938.... | \$489,000,000 | \$80,000,000 | \$569,000,000 |
| 1937.... | 583,000,000 | 63,000,000 | 646,000,000 |
| March: | | | |
| 1938.... | 512,000,000 | 60,000,000 | 572,000,000 |
| 1937.... | 596,000,000 | 112,000,000 | 708,000,000 |

WHEAT: Prices Drop

Lowest wheat prices in 5 years were being registered in late May. Principal factors were the prospects for large harvests this summer and fall and the slow demand for current supplies.

On May 1 the United States had a surplus of 217 million bushels of wheat for export or carry-over; the July 1 figure is expected to be about 200 million—largest carry-over in 4 years. Meanwhile, the largest winter wheat crop since 1931 is indicated.

Domestic production of winter and spring wheat this year may total close to 1 billion bushels, or considerably in excess of average domestic disappearance. If exports are no larger than in the current year, the supply on July 1,

1939, is expected to exceed the record peak of 378 million bushels carry-over in 1933.

Reports in late May indicated an increase of about 3 percent in world wheat acreage (excluding Soviet Russia and China) for harvest in 1938. The increase over 1937 acreage is due chiefly to the large acreage for harvest in the United States and to increased seedings in the Danubian countries. Acreage decreases were indicated for Canada and North Africa.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa reported May 1 intentions of farmers to decrease spring wheat seedings by about 750 acres, principally in Saskatchewan. Increased acreage is expected in Manitoba and Alberta. In Argentina, increased acreage this year over last is expected if conditions continue favorable. Unfavorable conditions in Australia are expected to decrease the area sown by about 1.5 million acres, compared with last year.

COTTON: Prices Lower

Cotton prices until mid-May had held rather better than prices of other farm commodities in recent months, but declined sharply in late May and by June 1 averaged in spot markets about 8 cents for Middling $\frac{3}{8}$ inch—only about $\frac{1}{4}$ cent higher than on November 4.

Factors supporting prices have been the Government loan program and the prospective reduction in acreage under the new Agricultural Adjustment Act. The supply situation, however, continues burdensome with domestic mill activity recently showing about 40 percent reduction below a year ago and cotton consumption in foreign countries also much lower than last year. Manufacturers' sales have been less than the output of cotton goods.

United States exports of cotton, August 1 to May 20, totaled 5.2 million bales, or slightly more than in the same period last season. Exports of 1.5 million bales to Great Britain during the period were 40 percent more than in the corresponding period a year

ago; exports of 2.6 million bales to the Continent of Europe were about 20 percent larger than last year's.

Japan took only 600 thousand bales of American cotton during the period, or 60 percent less than a year ago, notwithstanding only a slight decline in total Japanese consumption of cotton. Latest foreign production news is an estimate that Chinese cotton acreage in 1938 may be 40 percent less than the record plantings of 9.5 million acres last year. Smaller reductions are expected in other countries.

CORN: Heavy Exports

Fifty million bushels of corn was exported from the United States during the period October 1 through April 30. The movement may slacken as Argentine exports increase, but will be speeded again next fall and winter if the 1938 United States crop is near average.

Corn planting started early but lately there have been delays from rain and cool weather. Prices of corn are expected to hold fairly stable during the next few months. Prior to May 5, Government loans had been made on a little more than 42 million bushels.

CATTLE: Low Prices

Relatively low prices of the better grades of slaughter cattle and a fairly strong demand for stockers and feeders feature the beef cattle situation.

Marketings of well-finished, grain-fed cattle are expected to continue to increase seasonally through August; marketings will be much larger this summer and fall than in corresponding months of 1937. Prices of such cattle frequently tend to advance in early summer; a retarding influence this year is the weak demand for meats.

A relatively strong demand for replacement stock has resulted from the abundant supplies of feed, generally good range and pasture conditions, and the relatively small number of hogs to be fed. Marketings of cows, heifers, and calves have been smaller than a year ago.

Stocker and feeder steers, all weights, averaged about \$7.70 per 100 pounds at Kansas City in early May—only about 20 cents less than a year earlier. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves from 12 markets to the country totaled 445,000 head during the first 4 months of 1938. This was 15 percent more than in the same period of 1937.

Imports of cattle and calves during the first quarter of this year were about 38 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1937. One of the chief factors has been the relatively greater decrease in cattle prices in this country than in Canada.

HOGS: Weak Demand

Features of the hog situation include prospects for a small seasonal increase in hog marketings in the early summer, small storage stocks of pork and lard, and continued weak consumer demand for meats.

Hogs have been selling about \$2 per 100 pounds less this spring than last, but feed has been plentiful and relatively low priced. Continuation of this price ratio—favorable for expansion in hog production—would result in a considerable increase in the fall pig crop this year over last.

Hog slaughter in April was the second smallest for that month since 1914; but marketings this month (June) will be larger than in April or May. Last year, marketings were reduced sharply in May and continued small in June—contrary to the usual seasonal tendency.

This year, with feed supplies much larger and feed prices considerably lower, the market movement of 1937 fall pigs probably will be largest in late spring and summer. These pigs are being fed to heavy weights.

Marketings during July, August, and September—usually smallest of the year—will be much larger than in 1937. The increase, however, will be limited by the large number of sows and gilts which will be retained for farrow if feed crop conditions continue favorable.

The hog supply situation suggests an increase of about 2.5 million head in marketings, May through September this year compared with last; but on May 1 the decrease in storage stocks of pork and lard from a year earlier was roughly equivalent to about 2.1 million hogs.

Lard exports of about 112 million pounds in the first half of 1937-38 were largest for the period since 1934-35; larger than exports during the entire 1936-37 marketing year.

LAMBS: High Quality

The 1938 season has been one of the most favorable on record for the production of early spring lambs.

Lambs marketed prior to May 1 were generally well above average in weight and quality; May and June are expected to show a similar condition. Volume of marketings in these two months probably will about offset the smaller marketings (compared with a year ago) of grass fat lambs and yearlings from Texas.

By regions: California weather and feed conditions continued favorable in April for the development of early lambs; in Arizona, deficient rainfall and high winds dried up feed in the early lambing area and hastened marketings; in Southeastern States, early lambs have developed rapidly.

In Missouri and in early lambing areas of other Corn Belt States, early lambs made unusually good growth; in Northwestern States, the number is larger and the lambs have made better growth this year than last; in Texas, sheep and lambs were generally in above average condition on May 1.

Prices of early spring lambs in early May were somewhat lower than in early April; about \$2.50 per 100 pounds less than in early May last year. Consumer demand for meats continues weak; pelts are relatively low priced. Prices of lambs point down seasonally this summer.

WOOL: Large Supply

Domestic wool prices are expected to remain near May levels during the

next few months. Some increase in mill consumption is expected, but supplies of raw wool are relatively large here and abroad.

Domestic mill consumption of apparel wool in the first quarter of 1938 was the smallest reported for any first quarter in the past 21 years of record. But mill activity recently has been much lower than sales of wool items to consumers; stocks of finished and semifinished wool goods have been reduced.

The new 1938 domestic clip is coming to market slowly at fairly steady prices. The loan program of the Federal Government for domestic wools is expected to be an important stabilizing influence on prices in the next few months.

United States imports of apparel wool—less than 1 million pounds—in March were the smallest monthly imports since early 1933. Imports are expected to continue small during the remainder of this year.

FRUITS: Good Condition

Fruit crops were in good condition in most of the important producing sections on May 1, despite extensive frost injury to peaches and cherries in Central and North Atlantic States, and some damage to apples and pears in Virginia.

Growing conditions were favorable for most crops in the West, although low temperatures later reduced prospects in Idaho and northern Colorado. Citrus crops from the new bloom were in good condition in all States except Florida where there has been rather heavy droppage of young fruit because of lack of rain.

The 1938 peach crop in Southern States was indicated nearly one-third larger than the small 1937 crop; 13 per cent above average. Production in Georgia—principal peach producing State—was indicated at about 9 per cent below average, but nearly twice the size of the unusually small crop of 1937.

Peaches sold at relatively high prices in 1937; this year, the increased pro-

duction and reduced consumer buying power are adverse factors. Oranges and lemons in mid-May were selling at higher prices than a month earlier; grapefruit prices were above the early May lows; apples were selling for little, affected by burdensome cold storage holdings. Strawberries at North Carolina shipping points were selling as low as 12 cents a quart.

TRUCK CROPS: Plentiful

Liberal market supplies of most truck crops are in prospect. Growing conditions have been good in most of the important producing areas; in nearly all States the season is much earlier this year than last.

Increased production this year over last, of lima beans, snap beans, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, and tomatoes, is indicated in the second-early States; smaller production of beets, celery, green peas, and spinach. The intermediate States expect larger crops of snap beans and green peas, but a somewhat smaller crop of lettuce.

Larger acreage of cabbage, but smaller areas of lima beans, onions, and tomatoes, this year compared with last in the intermediate States are indicated. A much increased asparagus crop is being harvested in the late shipping States.

Carlot shipments of truck crops increased gradually from mid-April to mid-May, then declined slightly. But shipments have been running about 400 cars a week more than in the corresponding period last season. Shipments of new-crop potatoes also have been running much heavier this spring.

Wholesale prices of nearly all truck crops were lower in late May than at the same time last year, reflecting increased production and reduced consumer buying power. About the only crops selling higher than in mid-May of 1937 were asparagus from States other than California, celery, cauliflower, and Iceberg-type lettuce. The general trend of prices of most truck crops usually is downward from mid-May until late summer.

POTATOES: Early Season

The early potato crop has been moving to market about 2 weeks earlier than usual; carlot shipments increased sharply during May; market prices declined.

Production in all the early States combined is indicated at 28.6 million bushels, compared with 30 million in the spring of 1937, but the 1938 figure is nearly 10 million more than the 10-year average.

A report of production in the intermediate States is scheduled for release by BAE on June 13. Meanwhile, a 9 percent decrease in commercial acreage in these States has been indicated, but yields may be average or better since the crop has had favorable growing weather.

Shipments of potatoes from Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and South Carolina were about completed in late May, from Texas a little more than half completed, and from California and North Carolina were getting well under way. To May 28, shipments of new potatoes totaled about 25,470 cars, compared with 21,290 to the same time last season.

Weekly movement by rail or boat was expected to increase in early June, then to decline sharply as marketings begin from producing areas shipping mainly by motor truck. Shipments of old stocks from storage in the Northern States decreased sharply in May; only about 2,000 cars were left for shipment after May 28.

MILK: Record Production

Milk production this spring made an all-time high record. The condition of pastures in dairy States and supplies of feed on farms were above average on May 1; milk production likely will continue relatively heavy in early summer.

Production of principal manufactured dairy products in March was the largest for the period on record; apparent consumption, in contrast, was about the same as in March 1937.

A relatively large into-storage movement of butter increased stocks as of May 1, to nearly 20 million pounds—more than three times the quantity on May 1, 1937.

Butter prices have weakened under heavy production and reduced consumer income, averaging lowest for April since 1934. Cheese prices also are down sharply from a year ago, averaging lowest for the month since 1934. Ordinarily there is a marked seasonal decline in butter prices during the first half of the year.

POULTRY: Records Broken

The poultry industry broke 14-year records this spring; there was a high

record production of eggs per hen but a low record number of layers in farm flocks. Net result was a 6 percent reduction in production of eggs this May 1 compared with last.

Farm flocks averaged only 69 hens on May 1, compared with the 1927-36 10-year average of 76 on that date; but the average number of young chickens was 95 compared with a 90 average for the decade. The shortage of layers has been especially marked in the West North Central States; less marked in the highly commercial eastern and far western areas.

The average number of young chickens in farm flocks was largest for the date since 1930.

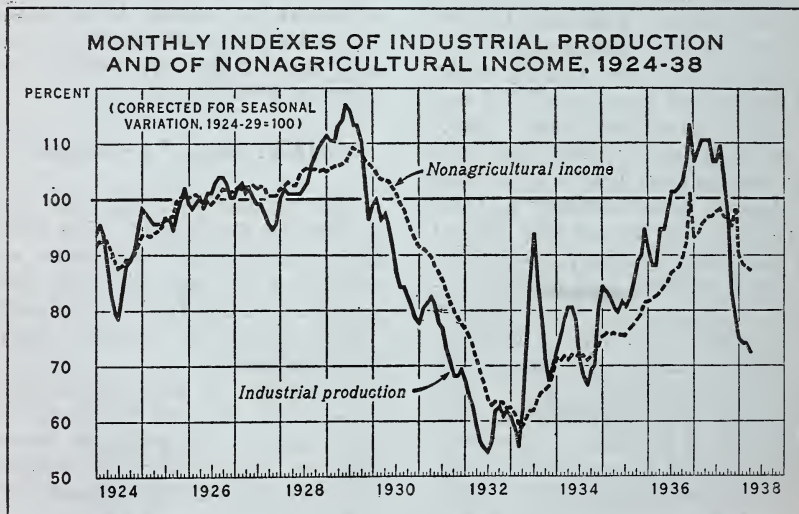
Demand Factors Point Down

MONTHLY trends in two broad measures of domestic demand for agricultural products—industrial production and nonagricultural income—are shown in the accompanying chart. Following the sharp declines in these measures of domestic demand which took place late in 1937, comparative stability was attained during the first quarter of 1938. Somewhat more rapid deterioration was again in evidence at the start of the second quarter.

Though slight acceleration has recently been noticeable in building

activity no immediate sharp gains in this field are anticipated. With the period of summer dullness approaching and with signs pointing to any material gains in demand for the major factory products still absent little, if any, improvement in industrial activity is anticipated for the next few months.

Until fall, changes in prospective supplies of farm products may be expected to exert more of an influence on prices of farm products than probable changes in the domestic demand situation.



Wheat Crop Insurance Program

THE Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is now accepting applications for crop insurance on the wheat crops to be harvested in 1939. A national crop insurance meeting was held at Omaha on April 19-20, at which Secretary Wallace, Roy M. Green, who is manager of the Corporation, and others, spoke on the significance of the crop insurance plan and explained how it will work. State meetings have been held in the major wheat producing States; district and county meetings are now being held. At these meetings wheat farmers are learning the details of the program and applications for insurance are being prepared.

THE Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is an agency of and within the Department of Agriculture, with its principal office in Washington, D. C. Branch offices are being established at Kansas City and Minneapolis. The bulk of the operations will be conducted from these offices under the supervision and control of the Washington office. A small branch office may be established in Washington, D. C., for operations in Eastern States. State crop insurance supervisors, who will work in cooperation with the State agricultural conservation committees, have been appointed in most of the major wheat producing States.

Local operation of the program will be in the hands of the county agricultural conservation committees administering the agricultural conservation program. County insurance supervisors will be appointed. In some counties where the volume is not large, a member of the county committee may act as county insurance supervisor.

Applications for insurance will be received by the county committee. This committee will transmit its recommendations to the State office, which in turn will review and forward applications to the branch office of the

Corporation. After review in the branch office the premium will be computed and a premium notice sent to the applicant.

PREMIUMS may be paid either in wheat (negotiable warehouse receipts) or in the cash equivalent. The premium notice will therefore show the amount both in wheat and in the cash equivalent of such wheat as determined at the branch office of the Corporation.

Upon receipt of the premium in the branch office, a policy will be issued to the applicant. The application, the insurance policy, and the regulations, together constitute the insured's contract with the Corporation.

Separate applications will be made by landlords and tenants, and a policy covering their respective interest in the crop will be issued to each. Either may insure his interest in the wheat crop regardless of whether the other insures.

THE INSURANCE policy is essentially an "all-risk" policy. The insurance is against loss in yield of wheat due to drought, flood, hail, wind, frost, winterkill, lightning, fire, tornado, storm, insect infestation, animal pests, plant disease, excessive or deficient moisture, incursions of animals, and any other unavoidable cause not specifically excluded.

The insurance does not cover damage to quality, or loss in yield caused by overpasturing or by the neglect or malfeasance of the insured or by any person in his household or employment or connected with the farm as tenant, sharecropper, or wage hand. It does not cover loss from theft, overplanting, use of defective seed, failure properly to prepare the land for seeding, or properly to seed, harvest, thresh, or care for the insured crop, or failure to reseed to wheat in areas and under circumstances where it is customary to reseed.

THE PRODUCER indicates on the application whether he desires insurance coverage of 50 percent or 75

percent of his average yield. The coverage may be limited to 50 percent of the average yield for the farm even though the applicant requests 75 percent. Insurance coverage of 50 percent may be more attractive because of the lower premium rates.¹

The applicant will furnish information on acreage and production of wheat for each of the 6 years of the base period, 1930-35. From these the annual yields will be calculated. The average of these 6 annual yields adjusted to reflect the 10-year (1926-35) experience on the farm will be the adjusted average yield to which 50 or 75 percent is applied to determine the coverage per acre.

The crop loss experience as reflected from the 6 annual yields and then adjusted to a 10-year basis will be averaged with the 10-year crop-loss experience for the county to determine the premium rate. Minimum premium rates of 3-tenths of a bushel for 50 percent coverage and 5-tenths of a bushel for 75 percent coverage have been set.

WHERE data are not available yields will have to be appraised by the county committee. If yields for more than 2 years of the base period are missing or inapplicable the

¹ For a general description of the crop insurance plan and maps showing county average coverage and loss experience per acre see issues of *The Agricultural Situation* for December 1, 1936; July 1, 1937, and November 1, 1937.

committee will appraise an average yield for the base period. In such cases the loss experience cannot be calculated and so it will be appraised by the Corporation.

Adjustments to yield and loss experience to convert the 6-year data to a 10-year basis will apply alike to all farms in the county except where wheat is produced on both irrigated and nonirrigated land. Such adjustments have been computed by the use of county average yields prepared by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates and State statisticians.

The county average loss experience that is given half weight in determining the premium, the adjustment figures, and certain yield information are shown in actuarial tables prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as part of its research on the subject of crop insurance. Data for illustrative counties are shown in the accompanying table. The "adjusted average loss cost" is the county loss experience that is given half weight in determining the premium on each farm in the county. If the sample farms used for actuarial studies are representative of farms for which insurance is written, the figures shown in the table for "adjusted average loss cost per acre" should represent about the average premium for the county.

R. T. BAGGETT and
WM. H. ROWE.

| State | County | Adjusted average loss cost per acre for insurance percentage of— | | Adjustment to average loss cost and average yield for the farm for the base period | | | County average yield of wheat | |
|-------------------|------------------|--|------------|--|------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Reported by Department for 10 years | Sample farms for 6 years |
| | | 75 percent | 50 percent | 75 percent | 50 percent | Yield | | |
| | | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels | Bushels | 1926-35 | 1930-35 |
| Illinois..... | Champaign..... | 1.3 | 0.6 | +0.4 | +0.2 | -2.7 | 17.3 | 20.0 |
| Indiana..... | Shelby..... | 1.9 | .5 | +5 | +4 | -4.6 | 14.1 | 18.7 |
| Kansas..... | Barton..... | 1.6 | .7 | 0 | 0 | +8 | 11.5 | 10.7 |
| Missouri..... | St. Charles..... | 1.3 | .6 | +6 | +3 | -4.7 | 14.4 | 19.1 |
| Montana..... | Chouteau..... | 1.6 | .8 | +7 | +3 | +2.9 | 12.4 | 9.5 |
| Nebraska..... | Hall..... | 1.9 | 1.0 | -3 | -2 | +7 | 14.5 | 13.8 |
| North Dakota..... | Sheridan..... | 1.4 | .7 | +4 | +2 | +2.0 | 7.9 | 5.9 |
| Ohio..... | Warren..... | 1.2 | .6 | +6 | +4 | -3.7 | 16.5 | 20.2 |
| Oklahoma..... | Beaver..... | 2.3 | 1.4 | +1 | 0 | +1.2 | 7.8 | 6.6 |
| Oregon..... | Marion..... | 1.8 | .7 | -2 | -1 | +8 | 23.1 | 22.3 |
| South Dakota..... | Beadle..... | 1.6 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | +1.0 | 6.7 | 5.7 |
| Texas..... | Hansford..... | 1.8 | 1.0 | +1 | -1 | +1.9 | 8.2 | 6.3 |
| Washington..... | Lincoln..... | .7 | .2 | -1 | 0 | -1.2 | 16.0 | 17.2 |

Changes in Farm Population

BUSINESS recession, drought, and farm mechanization were principal factors affecting farm population shifts during the past year. Approximately 1,160,000 persons moved off the farms; 872,000 moved from towns and cities to farms. There were also the usual shifts of farmers moving to other farms.

BAE estimates for 1937 show a net migration off the farms amounting to 288,000 persons, but this decrease was more than offset by an excess of farm births over deaths. The total farm population was 31,819,000 as of January 1, 1938, compared with 31,729,000 in 1937.

EFFECTS of the business recession upon farm population changes were particularly marked in the Northern and Eastern States where much of the manufacturing is concentrated.

The New England States, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania reported a noticeable movement to farms, especially in the fall. Correspondents in these areas noted the return of persons who had previously gone to cities but had become unemployed.

In the Pacific Coast States there was more movement to farms from towns and cities than in the opposite direction. Many migrants had apparently come from other States, including the drought States.

THERE was a continuation of the previously reported decrease in farm population in the drought area, especially in the northern Great Plains States, where a strong movement to farms in other areas and to towns and cities was reported. There was also some decrease in the number of persons living on farms in the southern Great Plains. Only part of this movement was to the States of the far West; some of the migrants went to other parts of the drought area or to locations east of that area.

A special report for South Dakota shows that the five States receiving

most migrants from South Dakota were California, Oregon, Minnesota, Washington, and Iowa. The States of the far West continued to report increases in farm population. Idaho in the North and Arizona and New Mexico in the South, shared with the three Pacific Coast States the role of hosts to many migrants.

In part, this movement westward had no direct connections with the drought; the rapidly increasing cotton acreage in New Mexico, Arizona, and California has tended to attract workers from States farther east. Many of these workers apparently do not return to their former locations at the end of the season.

MECHANIZATION was a factor in farm population changes about which correspondents commented more frequently than ever before, especially in the winter wheat area; it was a factor also in the spring wheat area, the Corn Belt, and in some parts of the Cotton Belt.

The reports as to mechanization suggest two developments: (1) a displacement of farm population through the consolidation of holdings to provide larger areas for the more efficient use of power machinery; (2) the development of what some persons designate as "sidewalk farmers."

As to displacement, it appears that in many instances the farm buildings are either demolished or moved away; of necessity the former residents leave farming entirely. They dispose of operating equipment at sacrifice prices and move to nearby villages and cities. The displacement has become especially acute where absentee owners employ hired laborers to carry on the necessary seasonal operations with power machinery.

The "sidewalk farmer," as contrasted with the well-known "suit-case farmer," lives in a nearby village or town and travels the short distance to his farm. Power machinery frees him from the necessity of keeping work

stock and the automobile provides easy transportation from his home. He and his family enjoy the social and educational advantages of village life, and still carry on farming. Such farmers may even have a subsistence garden and keep a cow and some chickens at their residences to provide for home consumption needs.

CORRESPONDENTS commented frequently upon the number of persons not engaged in agriculture living on farms. The census in 1930 brought out that about one-seventh of the gainful workers living on farms were not employed directly in agriculture. The movement to suburban areas and part-time farms has been observed for many years and may have been increasing since 1930.

The reports suggest that in many cases families living in farm homes do not operate the adjoining farm acreage and possibly are not working in agriculture. In some areas the relief agencies have been aware for some time of unemployed former farm operators who continue to live in the open country—sometimes on the same farms they formerly operated.

DURING the depression years many young people who would have left the farms if conditions had been as favorable as before 1930, remained on farms. The best information available suggests that many of these persons have married and settled near the parental home. Although there has been a net migration to cities since 1932, the movement has not yet reached predepression levels, nor has it begun to affect the numbers of young people who "were left" on farms since 1930.

The effect of the peak in the number of farm births in 1921-24 is also becoming apparent in the unusually large number of young people ready to begin their occupational careers. Many of these young people are on the poorer farms and in the poorer agricultural areas. Thus, while the major commercial agricultural areas appear to require and directly to support a smaller number of persons than heretofore, the less commercialized agricultural areas, where a large share of the meager production has been required for home consumption, appear to have an increasing number of persons looking to them for a livelihood.

CONRAD TAEUBER.

Consumption, Textile Raw Materials

CONSUMPTION of textile raw materials in the United States during the last 20 years has ranged from an annual low of 24.3 pounds per capita (in 1932) to a high of 36.3 pounds (in 1927). Consumption in 1937 amounted to about 34.8 pounds per person.

The most striking feature in textile consumption in the past 2 decades has been the marked increase in per capita consumption of rayon—from practically nothing in 1918 to about 2.3 pounds (the peak) in 1936. Consumption in 1937 was about 2 pounds.

Per capita consumption of wool has trended downward since about 1923, although consumption per person in the 3 years, 1935-37, averaging about 3 pounds annually, was relatively large. Consumption of raw silk in-

creased steadily from about 1920 to 1929, when it amounted to eight-tenths of a pound per person, but has trended downward since then.

Domestic utilization of raw cotton is, of course, much larger than that of other textile raw materials, amounting to about 29.5 pounds per capita in 1937 or about the same as in 1929. Consumption in 1937 was little less than the peak of 31.7 pounds in 1927.

From 1918 to 1929 per capita consumption of cotton tended neither to increase nor decrease, although there were rather sharp fluctuations from year to year. During the depression years—1930-32—cotton consumption was sharply reduced, consumption in 1932 being about 35 percent less than in the peak year, 1927. Since 1932 there has been a marked increase.

THE accompanying table shows the apparent annual per capita consumption of cotton, wool, silk, and rayon during the 20-year period. The figures do not represent per capita utilization of these products by ultimate consumers, but they do represent the best available measure of this utilization. The figures for cotton and wool are based on consumption or utilization of these products by mills in the United States.

Per Capita Consumption of Cotton, Wool, Silk, and Rayon, United States, 1918-37

| Calendar year | Cotton | Wool ¹ | | Rayon | Silk |
|---------------|--------|--------------------|---------|-------|------|
| | | Apparel and carpet | Apparel | | |
| | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. |
| 1918----- | 30.0 | 3.85 | 3.58 | 0.05 | 0.46 |
| 1919----- | 28.5 | 3.13 | 2.70 | .09 | .52 |
| 1920----- | 27.7 | 2.95 | 2.48 | .09 | .36 |
| 1921----- | 25.1 | 3.17 | 2.77 | .18 | .48 |
| 1922----- | 27.7 | 3.70 | 2.85 | .22 | .53 |
| 1923----- | 29.3 | 3.79 | 2.79 | .29 | .55 |
| 1924----- | 24.3 | 3.02 | 2.21 | .37 | .53 |
| 1925----- | 28.0 | 3.05 | 2.19 | .51 | .66 |
| 1926----- | 28.8 | 2.94 | 2.19 | .52 | .66 |
| 1927----- | 31.7 | 3.00 | 2.19 | .85 | .72 |
| 1928----- | 27.8 | 2.78 | 1.94 | .84 | .73 |
| 1929----- | 29.4 | 3.03 | 2.08 | 1.08 | .80 |
| 1930----- | 22.2 | 2.14 | 1.63 | .96 | .65 |
| 1931----- | 22.3 | 2.51 | 1.92 | 1.27 | .71 |
| 1932----- | 20.6 | 1.84 | 1.51 | 1.22 | .60 |
| 1933----- | 25.3 | 2.52 | 1.95 | 1.69 | .56 |
| 1934----- | 21.9 | 1.81 | 1.32 | 1.54 | .48 |
| 1935----- | 22.6 | 3.16 | 2.38 | 1.97 | .57 |
| 1936----- | 28.2 | 2.99 | 2.17 | 2.32 | .53 |
| 1937----- | 29.5 | 2.73 | 1.92 | 2.02 | .50 |

¹ Scoured basis.

Total consumption for calendar year divided by population estimates to obtain consumption per capita.

Population estimates from Bureau of the Census. Cotton consumption and wool consumption from reports of Bureau of the Census.

Rayon consumption based on production, stocks, and trade.

Silk—Net imports for the calendar year as reported by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

mate consumers, but they do represent the best available measure of this utilization. The figures for cotton and wool are based on consumption or utilization of these products by mills in the United States.

The data on rayon consumption represent annual domestic disappearance; that is, from total of stocks on hand at the beginning of the year and the production and imports during the year, the sum of exports during the year and the stocks on hand at the end of the year has been deducted.

Consumption data for the four textile products include that quantity used in the manufacture of textile goods which are exported, but do not include raw materials used in the manufacture of finished or semi-finished textile materials which are imported.

The figures on wool consumption are shown on a scoured wool basis, so that they may be comparable with the data for other textiles. Wool in the grease, as it is sold by farmers, usually shrinks from 50 to 70 percent when it is scoured. Consumption of apparel wool is shown separately to indicate the domestic utilization of practically all wool not used in the manufacture of rugs and carpets. Part of the apparel wool and nearly all of the carpet wool utilized in the United States are imported.

M. R. COOPER and
P. RICHARDS.

Gross Farm Income

Gross farm income in 1937 is estimated by BAE at 10 billion dollars compared with 9.3 billions in 1936, with 5.3 billions in 1932.

The estimate includes cash income from sales of farm products during the calendar year, the value of farm products retained for consumption in the farm home and valued at average prices received by producers, and Government payments to farmers.

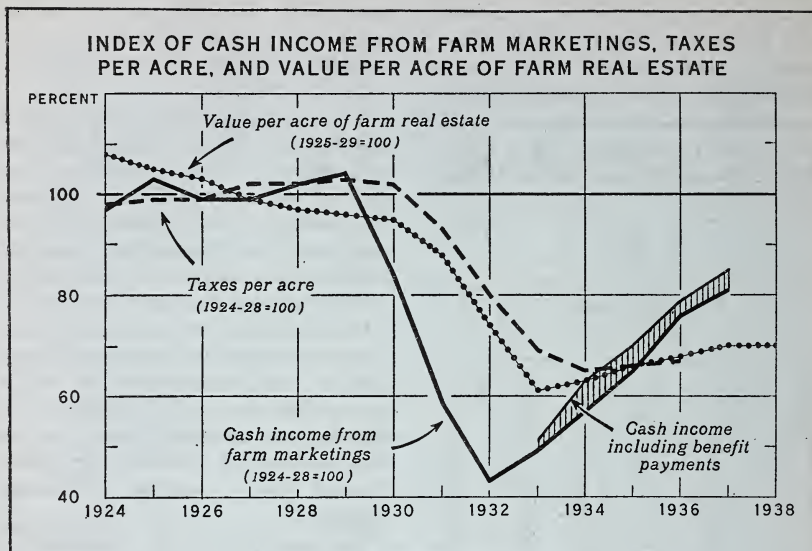
Much of the increase in gross farm

income in 1937 was due to an increase in income from crops and from Government payments.

Total income from 78 crops was 4.3 billion dollars in 1937, compared with 3.9 billion in 1936. Gross income from livestock and livestock products totaled 5.3 billion in 1937 compared with 5.1 billion in 1936.

Government payments in 1937 totaled 367 million dollars compared with 287 million in 1936.

Farm Real Estate Values



FOR THE first year since 1933, farm real estate values for the Nation as a whole failed to increase. For the 12 months ended March 1, 1938, the index of average value per acre of farm real estate stood at 85 percent of the 1912-14 period, the same as the figure reported a year ago.

From 1933 to 1937, farm real estate values rose 4 percent each year, and by 1937 were 16 percent above 1933. In the principal agricultural sections, this rise in values began from levels that were lower than at any time since before 1912, and marked the first upward movement since before 1920. Perhaps the most important single item supporting the upward movement was the increase in farm income, which was expanding at the rate of approximately 1 billion dollars a year. By 1936 cash income from farm production was 87 percent higher than in 1932.

THE natural tendency of farm real estate values to lag in periods of change is evident from a comparison of changes in values with income, either for the Nation as a whole or for individual States or agricultural areas. While farm income declined consider-

ably more than did values from 1929 to 1932, since that date the income increases have been relatively greater. At the beginning of 1937 the level of both cash income and of farm real estate values were approximately three-fourths of the levels for 1929; it is reassuring to note that the value levels reached as a result of the gains after 1933 were reasonably supported by income.

A second factor contributing materially to the rise in values was the improvement in farm real estate credit conditions. The activities of the Farm Credit Administration in refinancing, deferring principal payments, granting extensions, facilitating the handling of distressed farm mortgage debt, and in reducing the interest cost of mortgage loans to farmers, constituted an important factor contributing to the rise in farm real estate values, especially during the early part of the 1933 to 1937 period.

The increase in activity of private agencies lending on farm mortgages during the latter part of the period contributed further to the improvement of the credit situation. The continuation of extremely low interest

rates on farm mortgages has also been a factor acting in the direction of higher farm real estate values. As a result of the relieved credit conditions, as well as the rise in values, the frequency of distress transfers fell sharply, and by 1937 was at a level approximately one-half that reported in 1933.

The substantially lower levels of farm real estate taxes in recent years were still another factor contributing to the farm real estate value increases after 1933. However, questions as to the permanence of these lower levels have probably resulted in the reductions not being fully capitalized into land values.

ALTHOUGH for the United States as a whole farm real estate values failed to increase during the year ended March 1, 1938, the upward trend continued in the South Central, South Atlantic, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central groups of States. The rates of increase in these groups, however, were lower than those of the previous years and the gains were offset by slight declines in values in the West North Central, Pacific Coast, and New England States. The average value for the Mountain States remained unchanged.

Largely because of increased marketings from the near bumper crop of

1937, cash income was higher in 1937 than in 1936, although the increase was less than for any year since 1933. However, the prices of farm products declined sharply to below pre-war averages during the past fall and winter, and this drop was sufficient to counteract the effect of the increase in income.

During the past year, average farm real estate values increased in 23 States, decreased in 17, remained unchanged in 8. Largest increases in values were reported from Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana, each of which reported gains in excess of 5 percent. The declines were slight in most of the States reporting decreases, although they exceeded 4 percent in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska.

FOR the United States as a whole, values are 15 percent below the 1912-14 level, although in 15 States the averages equal or exceed those for the base period. Average values in all States are below those of 1930 and only in 2 States, North Carolina and Indiana, have they reached the 1931 levels. In 15 States values have recovered to the levels prevailing in 1932, while in 7 States they are above both the 1932 and the 1912-14 averages.

M. M. REGAN.

Agriculture's Share in Export Trade

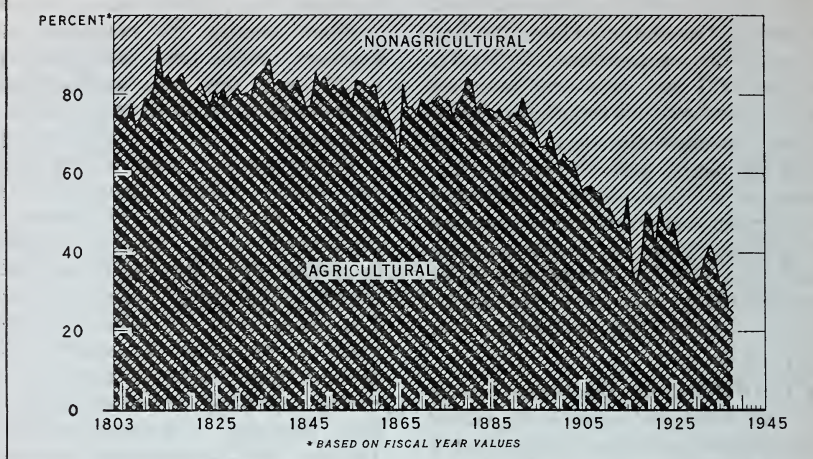
DURING the first half of the nineteenth century, United States agricultural exports constituted something over 80 percent of total exports; after the Civil War to about 1880, agricultural exports averaged somewhat under 80 percent; since 1880 the proportion has declined quite persistently to about 26 percent in 1936-37.

The short wheat crops of 1916 and 1917 and the rise in industrial and war material exports produced an abrupt decline in those years, and the War and post-war demand for American farm products tended to keep the share of agricultural exports somewhat above the pre-war downward trend until

about 1925 when post-war rehabilitation in agricultural production was practically attained.

THE LONG-TIME downward trend after the 1880's reflects of course the marked industrial expansion that began in the United States during the latter part of the nineteenth century. While farm production tended to expand more nearly in line with population growth, industrial production far outran population growth and farm production, and this relatively greater expansion in industrial output naturally appeared also in the quantities available for export.

PERCENTAGE OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE
CONSISTING OF AGRICULTURAL AND NONAGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS, UNITED STATES, 1803 TO DATE



The sharp increase in the relative importance of agricultural exports between 1929 and 1932 was due largely to the sharp falling off in industrial production; similarly the decline after 1932 was due also in large part to the marked recovery in industrial production that terminated in the spring of 1937.

To some extent the smaller proportion of agricultural exports in total exports since 1934 has been due to the record droughts of 1934 and 1936 and their effect in reducing grain and livestock product exports. The effect of the cotton loan program of 1934-35 is seen chiefly in the decline in exports in that season.

SUPPLIES of farm products are at present ample, but exports of farm products except in selective cases, such as corn, remain relatively low. The lack of foreign exchange on the part of Germany, the continued ex-

pansion of agricultural production in competing countries, and continued efforts toward self-sufficiency in European countries are among the other factors that tend to keep the share of agricultural exports down in line with the long-time downward trend of the past 55 years. Roughly, this decline has amounted to somewhat more than 1 percent per year and the 1936-37 situation was not far out of line with what might be expected in view of this long-time trend. This can be illustrated by noting the following percentages for five typical prosperity years, and 1936-37.

| Year: | <i>Agricultural Exports Percent of Total Exports</i> |
|--------------|--|
| 1880-81..... | 84 |
| 1892-93..... | 75 |
| 1905-06..... | 56 |
| 1912-13..... | 46 |
| 1928-29..... | 35 |
| 1936-37..... | 26 |

L. H. BEAN.

Japanese Synthetic Fibers

Japanese production of synthetic fibers set a new high record in 1937, amounting to 495 million pounds or nearly 56 percent more than in 1936. This figure compares with 232 million pounds in 1935 with only 37 million pounds in 1930.

Japanese production of rayon staple fiber in the first quarter of 1938 has been estimated at more than 65 million pounds—largest on record. The fiber is spun alone or mixed with cotton and wool. Decrees have been issued requiring the mixture of staple fiber with cotton in certain kinds of yarn for domestic use.

National Standards for Farm Products

THE use of quality standards for identifying and describing farm products, in connection with their purchase and sale, is almost as old as commercial agriculture.

In 1619, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed the first tobacco inspection law; cotton grading is recorded as early as 1800; grades of various kinds have been used in selling grain for more than 80 years.

In 1930, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics was authorized to grade tobacco in a limited way for growers and warehousemen who wanted their tobacco graded and who were willing to pay a fee to have it done. Five years later, Congress passed a law under which referendums are held, and if two-thirds of the growers voting for any market favor grading, then the grading of all tobacco sold at auction on that market becomes mandatory. That law is now in operation on 27 markets; probably 200 million pounds, or about 14 percent of the crop, will be graded this year.

CONGRESS passed the Cotton Futures Act in 1914. That law authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish standards for American cotton, required their use in trading in future contracts, and provided that all cotton tendered in settlement of such contracts traded in on the exchanges should be graded by representatives of the Department of Agriculture. The grade certificate, issued by employees of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are final in the settlement of such contracts.

But the 1914 law did not require the use of national uniform standards in private transactions or spot sales, as they are known in the cotton trade. Therefore, in 1923, Congress passed the Cotton Standards Act. This act requires the use of the official standards established by the Secretary of Agriculture in all sales by grade of American cotton in interstate and foreign

commerce. Sales by sample are not prohibited, but if cotton is sold by grade, the use of any standards other than those established by the Secretary of Agriculture is unlawful.

Congress passed the Grain Standards Act in 1916. That law gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to establish standards for grain and makes unlawful the use of any other standards in buying or selling grain by grade in interstate commerce in this country or for export to other countries. The law does not prohibit buying and selling grain by sample. The result of that law has been that we now have uniform national standards for grain. Moreover, all grain shipped from or to a place where an official grain inspector is located must be inspected. Nearly 400 inspectors located at 176 inspection points are engaged in this work. Appeal grade certificates issued by the Department of Agriculture are final.

THE development and use of national standards for many other farm products without mandatory legislation, so far as the Federal Government is concerned, has expanded rapidly in recent years.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has developed grades for 71 of the fruits and vegetables. So far as the Bureau is concerned, the use of these grades is optional with buyers and sellers of these commodities. Several States, however, have adopted the Federal grades and have passed laws requiring shipments of fruits and vegetables to be inspected and marked according to them.

Use of the national grades for fruits and vegetables has grown rapidly, particularly in recent years since distributors have been operating under Federal licenses to protect the industry from certain forms of unfair competition. During the past fiscal year more than 420,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables were officially inspected.

National standards for permissive use have been developed for many other farm products such as butter, eggs, cheese, dressed poultry, hay, beans, wool, livestock, meats, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, and several others. This season, for the first time, a grading service for cottonseed is provided on a limited scale. Practically all soybeans bought by crushers are bought on the basis of grades established by the Department.

QUANTITY standards for farm products are not like the standard foot rule. They cannot be fixed arbitrarily as of a given date and left forever unchanged if they are to be of practical value. Some of the standards used 20 years ago now seem crude when compared with those in use today. Many of those used today probably will be considered crude and unsuited to marketing conditions 20 or 25 years hence. It is only by continuing scientific research that progress can be made in the field of standardization. That is a job not alone for the Federal Government but for the agricultural colleges and for the industry as well.

One of the advantages of national standards is stability. The standards are not shifted from season to season depending upon the quality of the crop or the available supplies. They are uniform, within reasonable limits, throughout the country. Being national in scope, the standards do not vary from region to region. They cover characteristics common to products produced in all major regions of production. And, therefore, they do not reflect characteristics peculiar to products produced in limited areas, except where such differences in quality are so marked as to differentiate them as separate classes. As an example of this exception, it is not practicable to have one set of grades for all wheat produced in the United States. The differences between hard and soft winter wheats and between them and spring wheat require separate and differing specifications.

LAST year, the Bureau graded some 262 million pounds of butter according to Federal grades—about 1 pound out of every 6 pounds of creamery butter produced in this country. More than 75 million pounds of this graded butter were sold in consumer packages, each carrying a "certificate of quality" showing that the butter was officially graded and whether the score was 92 or 93 at the time of grading. Two western States recently passed laws requiring that one of three grades be marked on retail packages of butter. Considerable quantities of eggs and dressed poultry are now being marked by grade for the information of consumers. Several States have mandatory egg marking laws.

THE Bureau has developed three grades for each of 26 canned fruits and vegetables. The terms A, B, and C are used. The use of these terms on individual labels is growing rapidly. One of the large eastern retail distributing organizations is reported to be using nearly 200 million grade labels this year, about 70 percent of which are grade C. This seems to repudiate the notion that when the grade is shown on the retail package, consumers will buy only the high grades. The experience of distributors of canned foods thus far indicates that people will readily buy a second or third grade article if it is wholesome. But consumers do not want to pay a first-grade price for a third-grade product, as is too often the case when no grade information is available to them.

In June 1927 the Bureau offered to grade and stamp beef in a limited way, largely as an experiment. No fees were charged for the service. The service was continued for 13 months during which more than 40 million pounds were graded. A charge was then made for the service. Now approximately 550 million pounds of meats and meat products are graded annually. About 450 million pounds, mostly of fresh beef, carry the grade stamp.

C. W. KITCHEN.

Beans—A \$50,000,000 Industry

THE dry edible bean crop returns to the farmers of the United States an average of \$50,000,000 annually. In some localities it is one of the most important cash farm crops and has a definite place in the rotation. The acreage planted will range from 1.5 million to 2 million acres. On this area from 12 million to 15 million bags of beans are produced, practically all for domestic consumption.

But "beans" are not always just "beans." There are more than 20 distinct commercial types of dry edible beans, produced in fairly well-defined areas and consumed by persons having a preference for the respective types. Per capita consumption is about 10 pounds a year.

The leading type is the white Navy or Pea bean, 90 percent produced in Michigan, most of the remainder in New York State. This type, comprising on the average one-third of the total supply of all beans, is marketed largely to canners and sold to consumers as pork and beans or canned baked beans.

The Great Northern bean, a comparative newcomer, is a large white bean competing with the Navy or Pea bean in the retail grocery trade but has not yet proved a competitor as a canned baked bean. Since 1928 this type has represented on the average 13 percent of the total available supply of dry edible beans.

Great Northerns are produced in concentrated areas in southern Idaho, south central Montana, northwestern and central Wyoming, and western Nebraska. Also important among the white beans are Small Whites produced almost wholly in California, and Marrows produced in New York State.

AMONG the colored beans are Pintos, mottled as the name implies, from Colorado and New Mexico; Pinks from California; Small Reds from southern Idaho and Cali-

Public interest usually centers on the great wheat, cotton, and corn crops. But agriculture has many other branches—each covering vast acreages, engaging thousands of farmers and farm laborers, yielding farm income in eight figures.

The production of dry beans—a 50 million dollar industry—is one example. Sugar beets are a 50 million dollar industry; peanuts, 44 million dollars; rice, 35 million; strawberries, 25 million; onions, 23 million; cabbage, 20 million.

The accompanying article is the first of a group to be published on the so-called "minor" agricultural industries.—Ed.

fornia; Red Kidneys from Michigan and New York State; Cranberries from California and Michigan. Grouped with dry edible beans also are Blackeyes, a variety of cowpea, but commercially a bean. More than 800,000 bags of this type were produced in southern California in 1937. They are distributed throughout the Southern, Atlantic, and Middle-Western States.

Limas make up an important part of the dry edible bean supply. Standard limas have represented from 8 to 10 percent of the total supply for a number of years. Baby limas have increased in supply and demand. During the last 2 years 7.5 percent of the total supply of beans was of this type.

Total production of 15,839,000 bags of dry edible beans in 1937 was an all-time high record. Prices declined sharply and have remained at relatively low levels during the 1937-38 marketing season. This supply is about 3,000,000 bags in excess of probable disappearance during the entire marketing season. One of the largest carry-overs on record is in prospect for September 1, the beginning of the new crop marketing season.

J. E. BARR.

Storage Locker Service Expands

EIGHT years ago the cold storage locker plant was practically unknown. Today, plants of this type, renting cold storage compartments to individuals, are reported in operation in 27 States. Numbers per State vary from less than 10 in New York and Pennsylvania to 300 in Washington.

Locker plants are concentrated largely in the Pacific Northwest and in the Corn Belt. But the movement has spread rapidly, with interest increasing now in the South and East. The Illinois Extension Service recently reported 38 locker plants in operation in that State, with 40 additional plants projected. Similar expansion is forecast in other States.

In the Northwest, the movement was begun as a limited service for a few individuals who sought freezer storage space for perishable products. The number of clients increased rapidly; soon, cold storage companies, creameries, ice plants, and meat retailers were providing enlarged space for the preservation of farm family supplies of meat, fruits, vegetables and poultry.

Dressed meat carcasses are brought to the plants, the carcasses are chilled, ripened, cut, wrapped (to delay drying and oxidation), spread for prompt freezing, and stored in individual lockers from which a steak, roast, or other cuts may be withdrawn as required.

Special services such as slaughtering, and the rendering of lard are provided by many plants. Fruits and vegetables, usually prepared and packaged at home, are stored. Locker rentals average about \$10 a year. Service charges for such operations as cutting and grinding meats net the plants about as much as the rentals.

In the beginning, most locker plant patrons were farm families. Now, in some towns, 50 percent of the patrons are village and city residents who buy from farmers, on the wholesale markets, or through the locker management. The most successful locker plants are those adapted to local needs.

K. F. WARNER,

Bureau of Animal Industry.

Measures of Domestic Demand

[1924-29=100]

| | April | | | | Percent change | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|-------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | 1929 | 1933 | 1937 | 1938 | 1937-38 | 1933-38 | 1929-38 |
| National income..... | 106.1 | 56.5 | 96.2 | 85.7 | -11 | +52 | -19 |
| Nonagricultural income: | | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 106.2 | 58.9 | 96.3 | 87.1 | -10 | +48 | -18 |
| Per capita..... | 101.3 | 54.5 | 85.8 | 77.1 | -10 | +41 | -24 |
| Factory pay rolls: | | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 108.8 | 38.4 | 101.3 | 68.1 | -33 | +77 | -37 |
| Per employed wage earner..... | 103.3 | 61.1 | 99.6 | 85.9 | -14 | +41 | -17 |
| Industrial production: | | | | | | | |
| Total..... | 113.3 | 61.8 | 110.5 | 72.1 | -35 | +17 | -36 |
| Factories processing farm products..... | 109.5 | 91.7 | 114.3 | 85.3 | -25 | -7 | -22 |
| Other factory production..... | 116.4 | 46.1 | 107.7 | 61.8 | -43 | +34 | -47 |
| Construction activity: | | | | | | | |
| Contracts awarded, total..... | 101.7 | 11.6 | 43.8 | 38.8 | -11 | +234 | -62 |
| Contracts awarded, residential..... | 89.6 | 9.0 | 39.4 | 32.2 | -18 | +253 | -64 |
| Employment in production of building materials..... | 95.2 | 33.5 | 65.7 | 50.3 | -23 | +50 | -47 |
| Cost of living: | | | | | | | |
| Food..... | 97.1 | 57.9 | 82.4 | 76.5 | -7 | +32 | -21 |
| "All other items"..... | 98.5 | 80.8 | 84.2 | 85.9 | +2 | +6 | -13 |
| Purchasing power of nonagricultural income per capita: | | | | | | | |
| For food..... | 104.3 | 94.1 | 104.1 | 100.8 | -3 | +7 | -3 |
| For "All other items"..... | 102.8 | 67.5 | 101.9 | 89.8 | -12 | +33 | -13 |

NOTE.—All indexes adjusted for seasonal variation except "Cost of living."

Progress Under Perishables Act

UNDER the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, which seeks to suppress unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables by placing members of the industry under license with authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to suspend or revoke the licenses of those who violate the act, complaints are being received at the rate of about 200 per month. This is an increase of about 10 percent in the last year.

Through amicable settlements effected by the Department, about \$270,000 was paid to complainants during the year, and formal action became necessary in only about 10 percent of all the complaints filed. The great majority of this 10 percent of complaints were for less than \$500 and so could be decided without formal hearings.

These figures show that the purposes of the act are being accomplished to a considerable extent without the necessity of costly procedure on the part of the complainants. In many instances all that has been necessary to secure compliance with the act has been to call it to the attention of the respondent together with evidence, such as certificates of grade, which supports the contention of the complainant.

The Department also receives many requests from parties who have honest differences of opinions as to compliance with contract specifications. Such differences cannot properly be classed as causes for complaints under the act since they do not usually involve unfair or fraudulent practices. Upon agreement by the two parties to abide by the opinion of the Department such differences of opinion are investigated and an informal decision rendered on the facts developed. This service is much appreciated by those honestly endeavoring to comply with good trade practices.

THE Secretary has authority to issue reparation orders against persons found to be in the wrong. If such orders

are not paid within 30 days or appeal taken to a court of proper jurisdiction, licenses are automatically suspended. During the past year 12 licenses were terminated in this way. Six were revoked and nine were suspended for varying periods of time.

At present, 19,297 produce dealers, commission merchants, and brokers are licensed under the act. This is an increase of approximately 1,500 over a year ago, the result largely of the activities of several additional field men who have been devoting attention particularly to itinerant truckers who operate without definite headquarters but whose activities definitely place them under the provisions of the act.

THE last session of Congress strengthened the P. A. C. Act by amendments which give the Secretary more discretion in the issuing of licenses and make more specific its provisions relative to unfair practices. The majority of complaints received under this act have to do with failure to comply with quality specifications of the contract. The act specifies that the certificates of quality and condition issued by the Food Products Inspection Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are prima facie evidence in proceedings under the act. Such certificates have therefore played a very important part in the settlement of complaints.

In a number of cases it has been found that certificates which have been issued by this inspection service have been altered or that substitutions have been made in lots covered by such certificates. The amendments made by the last session of Congress have covered both of these unfair practices. It has been made a definite violation of the act for any licensee, without the consent of the inspector, to make any change in a lot by way of substitution, or otherwise, after it has been officially inspected for grading and certification.

It has also been made a misdemeanor to falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit a certificate. These amendments have materially strengthened both the P. A. C. Act and the Food

Products Inspection Service which is now certifying more than one-third of all the carload shipments of fruits and vegetables in the United States.

F. G. ROBB.

Shifts in Corn Acreage

CORN production is more widely distributed than any other major crop in this country. The 1935 census shows that corn was grown on 4.8 million farms in 1934. Nearly two-thirds of the acreage and three-fourths of the production, however, was grown in the 12 North Central States from 1928 to 1932.

The 12 Southern States during this period raised 29 percent of the acreage but only 18 percent of the total production for the United States. The Middle Atlantic and New England States produced less than 5 percent of the acreage or production of corn from 1928 to 1932 and the proportion of corn grown in the 11 Western States was even less.

The 93.8 million acres of corn harvested in 1937 was about 9.6 million acres less than the average for the 5-year period 1928-32. Since 1933 the corn acreage harvested has varied from 9 to 12 percent below the 1928-32 average because of crop adjustment programs and unusual weather conditions.

BETWEEN 1910 and 1932 there was little variation in the total corn acreage in the United States. There was a considerable shift, however, in the proportion of the crop grown in different regions. In the 15 years preceding 1933, the Corn Belt made a perceptible shift to the northward and westward.

The Eastern and Southern States all showed significant decreases in corn acreage during this period and there were marked increases in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. Better adapted varieties of corn and

an increase in acreage of cultivated land had a large part in this tendency to raise corn farther North and West than formerly. In some areas, disease and insect pests of small grain as well as market conditions were factors in the expansion of the acreage of corn at the expense of small grain.

In the Eastern States the decline in corn acreage up to 1932 was accompanied by a decrease in land in farms and by an increase in grain concentrates purchased. In the South an expansion in cotton acreage largely explained the decline in acreage of corn.

SINCE 1933 a variety of influences have tended to shift corn acreage in different directions in different regions. The upward trend in corn acreage in Minnesota and Wisconsin was continued up to 1937. In the Plains States drought again in 1937 accounted for considerable corn failure and a large reduction in acres harvested as compared with the 5-year period from 1928 to 1932.

In Missouri a declining trend in acreage of corn previous to 1933 was continued after that date. The continued droughts of recent years have increased somewhat the acreage of grain sorghums and small grains in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma on land that would normally be planted to corn.

The acreage of corn in 1937 in New England was about 6 percent larger than the 1928-32 average but was 20 percent less than the average acreage grown from 1914 to 1918. The high price of grain due to the 1936 drought probably induced the increase in corn acreage in this region in 1937.

THE downward trend in corn acreage in the South which started in the World War period has been reversed in most of the Southern States since 1932. Between 1914-18 and 1928-32, corn acreage in 8 Southern States from North Carolina to Louisiana declined by 13 percent. In 1937, corn acreage in these 8 States was 3 percent below the 1914-18 average.

In Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas the 1937 corn acreage was slightly below the 1928-32 average. In Oklahoma there was a 46 percent decline in corn acreage in 1937 as compared with the 5-year period 1928-32. These decreases, especially the large decrease in Oklahoma, offset the increases in 8 other Southern States so that the total harvested acreage of corn in 1937 in 12 Southern States closely approximated the corn acreage during the 5-year period 1928-32.

THE eastern Corn Belt States had a slightly larger acreage of corn in 1937 than the average of the 5-year period 1928-32. However, the combined acreage of corn in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio in 1937 was about 1 million acres less than in the same States from 1914 to 1918. The 1937 corn acreage in Iowa represented a 2 percent decline from 1928-32 but was still 12 percent higher than the average acreage from 1914-18.

Prior to 1933 the shift in corn acreage was definitely to the northwestward with declining acreage in Eastern and Southern States including the eastern and southern parts of the Corn Belt. Since 1933 the effect of successive droughts and the agricultural adjustment programs has been to restrict acreage in areas where acreage had increased most rapidly and to reverse the trend in the East and South, where corn acreage had been declining. In only a few areas was a previous acreage trend continued after 1933. The decreased acreage in the Plains States in 1937 amounted to considerably more than the increase in other parts of the country.

Acreage of Corn Harvested in 1937, Compared With 1914-18 and 1928-32 Periods, by States

| State and division | Acreage of corn | | | Percent of United States total 1928-32 average | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|--|-----------------|
| | 1914-18 | 1928-32 | 1937 | Acreage | Production |
| | <i>Thousand acres</i> | | | <i>Per cent</i> | <i>Per cent</i> |
| Maine..... | 22 | 13 | 9 | (*) | (*) |
| New Hampshire..... | 21 | 13 | 15 | (*) | (*) |
| Vermont..... | 78 | 64 | 74 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Massachusetts..... | 52 | 39 | 40 | (*) | .1 |
| Connecticut..... | 63 | 51 | 51 | .1 | .1 |
| Rhode Island..... | 12 | 8 | 10 | (*) | (*) |
| New York..... | 755 | 584 | 672 | .6 | .8 |
| | 1,003 | 772 | 871 | .8 | 1.1 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 1,520 | 1,256 | 1,368 | 1.2 | 1.8 |
| New Jersey..... | 260 | 179 | 208 | .2 | .3 |
| Delaware..... | 189 | 140 | 143 | .1 | .1 |
| Maryland..... | 623 | 507 | 516 | .5 | .6 |
| Virginia..... | 1,892 | 1,489 | 1,480 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| West Virginia..... | 616 | 460 | 518 | .5 | .4 |
| | 5,100 | 4,031 | 4,233 | 3.9 | 4.4 |
| North Carolina..... | 2,374 | 2,186 | 2,326 | 2.1 | 1.5 |
| South Carolina..... | 1,799 | 1,525 | 1,663 | 1.5 | .8 |
| Georgia..... | 3,944 | 3,676 | 4,203 | 3.5 | 1.4 |
| Florida..... | 681 | 685 | 789 | .7 | .3 |
| Kentucky..... | 3,652 | 2,919 | 2,906 | 2.8 | 2.4 |
| Tennessee..... | 3,485 | 2,921 | 2,772 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| Alabama..... | 3,324 | 2,868 | 3,227 | 2.8 | 1.4 |
| Mississippi..... | 2,764 | 2,177 | 2,593 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Arkansas..... | 2,365 | 1,974 | 2,032 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| Louisiana..... | 1,608 | 1,299 | 1,422 | 1.2 | .7 |
| Oklahoma..... | 3,350 | 3,184 | 1,720 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Texas..... | 4,706 | 4,823 | 4,503 | 4.7 | 3.2 |
| | 34,052 | 30,237 | 30,156 | 29.2 | 18.5 |
| Ohio..... | 3,900 | 3,598 | 3,796 | 3.5 | 5.1 |
| Indiana..... | 5,395 | 4,563 | 4,706 | 4.4 | 6.1 |
| Illinois..... | 9,690 | 9,323 | 9,451 | 9.0 | 13.2 |
| Michigan..... | 1,710 | 1,364 | 1,590 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Wisconsin..... | 1,823 | 2,069 | 2,424 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| | 22,518 | 20,917 | 21,967 | 20.2 | 28.6 |
| Minnesota..... | 3,043 | 4,590 | 4,788 | 4.4 | 5.6 |
| Iowa..... | 9,970 | 11,453 | 11,189 | 11.1 | 17.2 |
| Missouri..... | 7,462 | 6,223 | 4,260 | 6.0 | 5.7 |
| North Dakota..... | 495 | 1,117 | 908 | 1.1 | .7 |
| South Dakota..... | 3,198 | 4,961 | 3,155 | 4.8 | 3.1 |
| Nebraska..... | 7,530 | 9,803 | 7,904 | 9.5 | 8.7 |
| Kansas..... | 6,732 | 6,868 | 2,456 | 6.6 | 5.0 |
| | 38,430 | 45,015 | 34,660 | 43.5 | 46.0 |
| Montana..... | 73 | 133 | 139 | .1 | .1 |
| Idaho..... | 26 | 38 | 36 | .1 | .1 |
| Wyoming..... | 52 | 188 | 261 | .2 | .1 |
| Colorado..... | 744 | 1,613 | 1,067 | 1.6 | .8 |
| New Mexico..... | 163 | 243 | 203 | .2 | .1 |
| Arizona..... | 23 | 30 | 33 | (*) | (*) |
| Utah..... | 17 | 17 | 22 | (*) | (*) |
| Nevada..... | 1 | 2 | 2 | (*) | (*) |
| Washington..... | 49 | 35 | 32 | (*) | (*) |
| Oregon..... | 57 | 63 | 66 | .1 | .1 |
| California..... | 108 | 84 | 62 | .1 | .1 |
| | 1,313 | 2,446 | 1,923 | 2.4 | 1.4 |
| United States..... | 102,416 | 103,418 | 93,810 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

*Less than 0.05 of 1 percent.

G. W. COLLIER.

General Trend of Prices and Wages

[1910-14=100]

| Year and month | Whole-sale prices of all commodities ¹ | Industrial wages ² | Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in ³ — | | | Farm wages | Taxes ⁴ |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | | | Living | Production | Living and production | | |
| 1920..... | 225 | 222 | 222 | 174 | 201 | 239 | 209 |
| 1921..... | 142 | 203 | 161 | 141 | 152 | 150 | 223 |
| 1922..... | 141 | 197 | 156 | 139 | 149 | 146 | 224 |
| 1923..... | 147 | 214 | 160 | 141 | 152 | 166 | 228 |
| 1924..... | 143 | 218 | 159 | 143 | 152 | 166 | 228 |
| 1925..... | 151 | 223 | 164 | 147 | 157 | 168 | 232 |
| 1926..... | 146 | 229 | 162 | 146 | 155 | 171 | 232 |
| 1927..... | 139 | 231 | 159 | 145 | 153 | 170 | 238 |
| 1928..... | 141 | 232 | 160 | 148 | 155 | 169 | 239 |
| 1929..... | 139 | 236 | 158 | 147 | 153 | 170 | 241 |
| 1930..... | 126 | 227 | 148 | 140 | 145 | 152 | 238 |
| 1931..... | 107 | 208 | 126 | 122 | 124 | 116 | 217 |
| 1932..... | 95 | 179 | 108 | 107 | 107 | 86 | 188 |
| 1933..... | 96 | 172 | 109 | 108 | 109 | 80 | 161 |
| 1934..... | 109 | 183 | 122 | 125 | 123 | 90 | 153 |
| 1935..... | 117 | 192 | 124 | 126 | 125 | 98 | 155 |
| 1936..... | 118 | 200 | 122 | 126 | 124 | 107 | 156 |
| 1937..... | 126 | 215 | 128 | 135 | 130 | 120 | ----- |
| 1937—April..... | 128 | 220 | ----- | ----- | 134 | 112 | ----- |
| May..... | 128 | 220 | ----- | ----- | 134 | ----- | ----- |
| June..... | 127 | 220 | 129 | 141 | 134 | ----- | ----- |
| July..... | 128 | 219 | ----- | ----- | 133 | 123 | ----- |
| August..... | 128 | 221 | ----- | ----- | 132 | ----- | ----- |
| September..... | 128 | 216 | 129 | 132 | 130 | ----- | ----- |
| October..... | 125 | 214 | ----- | ----- | 128 | 126 | ----- |
| November..... | 122 | 206 | ----- | ----- | 127 | ----- | ----- |
| December..... | 119 | 208 | 126 | 127 | 126 | ----- | ----- |
| 1938—January..... | 118 | 204 | ----- | ----- | 126 | 111 | ----- |
| February..... | 116 | 208 | ----- | ----- | 126 | ----- | ----- |
| March..... | 116 | 208 | 123 | 128 | 125 | ----- | ----- |
| April..... | 115 | 204 | ----- | ----- | ⁵ 125 | 115 | ----- |

| Year and month | Index numbers of farm prices [August 1909-July 1914=100] | | | | | | | | Ratio of prices received to prices paid |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|---|
| | Grains | Cotton and cottonseed | Fruits | Truck crops | Meat animals | Dairy products | Chickens and eggs | All groups | |
| 1920..... | 232 | 248 | 191 | ----- | 174 | 198 | 223 | 211 | 105 |
| 1921..... | 112 | 101 | 157 | ----- | 109 | 156 | 162 | 125 | 82 |
| 1922..... | 106 | 156 | 174 | ----- | 114 | 143 | 141 | 132 | 89 |
| 1923..... | 113 | 216 | 137 | ----- | 107 | 159 | 146 | 142 | 93 |
| 1924..... | 129 | 212 | 125 | 150 | 110 | 149 | 149 | 143 | 94 |
| 1925..... | 157 | 177 | 172 | 153 | 140 | 153 | 163 | 156 | 99 |
| 1926..... | 131 | 122 | 138 | 143 | 147 | 152 | 159 | 145 | 94 |
| 1927..... | 128 | 128 | 144 | 121 | 140 | 155 | 144 | 139 | 91 |
| 1928..... | 130 | 152 | 176 | 159 | 151 | 158 | 153 | 149 | 96 |
| 1929..... | 120 | 144 | 141 | 149 | 156 | 157 | 162 | 146 | 95 |
| 1930..... | 100 | 102 | 162 | 140 | 133 | 137 | 129 | 126 | 87 |
| 1931..... | 63 | 63 | 98 | 117 | 92 | 108 | 100 | 87 | 70 |
| 1932..... | 44 | 47 | 82 | 102 | 63 | 83 | 82 | 65 | 61 |
| 1933..... | 62 | 64 | 74 | 105 | 60 | 82 | 75 | 70 | 64 |
| 1934..... | 93 | 99 | 100 | 103 | 68 | 95 | 89 | 90 | 73 |
| 1935..... | 103 | 101 | 91 | 125 | 118 | 108 | 117 | 108 | 86 |
| 1936..... | 108 | 100 | 100 | 111 | 121 | 119 | 115 | 114 | 92 |
| 1937..... | 126 | 95 | 122 | 123 | 132 | 124 | 111 | 121 | 93 |
| 1937—May..... | 149 | 112 | 152 | 139 | 133 | 116 | 96 | 128 | 96 |
| June..... | 139 | 107 | 157 | 124 | 137 | 113 | 95 | 124 | 93 |
| July..... | 139 | 106 | 145 | 96 | 144 | 116 | 102 | 125 | 94 |
| August..... | 119 | 90 | 123 | 104 | 151 | 119 | 109 | 123 | 93 |
| September..... | 111 | 74 | 121 | 117 | 144 | 123 | 119 | 118 | 91 |
| October..... | 93 | 67 | 99 | 130 | 136 | 128 | 127 | 112 | 88 |
| November..... | 85 | 65 | 88 | 124 | 120 | 132 | 135 | 107 | 84 |
| December..... | 86 | 64 | 76 | 112 | 111 | 136 | 127 | 104 | 83 |
| 1938—January..... | 91 | 66 | 70 | 101 | 110 | 128 | 113 | 102 | 81 |
| February..... | 89 | 68 | 68 | 121 | 110 | 121 | 94 | 97 | 77 |
| March..... | 85 | 70 | 69 | 107 | 117 | 117 | 93 | 96 | 77 |
| April..... | 82 | 71 | 68 | 117 | 114 | 110 | 93 | 94 | ⁵ 76 |
| May..... | 79 | 71 | 77 | 99 | 111 | 103 | 98 | 92 | ⁵ 74 |

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics Index with 1926=100, divided by its 1910-14 average of 68.5.

² Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June 1914=100. Revised.

³ These indexes are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

⁴ Index of farm real estate taxes, per acre, 1913=100.

⁵ Preliminary.